Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 47 (Canceled)

48. (New) A method for providing an intelligent multimedia services environment in a network, comprising the steps of:

initiating a multimedia application;

simultaneously sharing and manipulating said multimedia application and multimedia data by one or more end user terminal devices;

providing communication between said one or more end user terminal devices and said multimedia data and said multimedia application;

utilizing one or more databases containing said multimedia data;

determining preferences of each of said one or more end user terminal devices; and

automatically adapting said multimedia data to satisfy said determined preferences of each of said one or more end user terminal devices prior to sending said adapted multimedia data to a receiving end user terminal device.

49. (New) The method of Claim 48, further comprising the step of transmitting commands defining each set of operations and manipulations in said shared multimedia data between end user terminal devices.

50. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein said determined preferences of said one or more end user terminal devices include user preferences, terminal capabilities; and network capabilities.

51.   (New) The method of Claim 50, further comprising the step of sharing device preferences of each of said end user terminal devices with all connected said end user terminal devices.

52.   (New) The method of Claim 51, further comprising the step of storing said user preferences, terminal capabilities and network capabilities at a Universal Resource Locator (URL) address.

53.   (New) The method of Claim 52, further comprising the steps of:
identifying a multimedia data set stored in said one or more data bases;
utilizing a transcoder/scalability service to modify said multimedia data set according to said user preferences, terminal capabilities; and network capabilities; and
making said modified multimedia data set available to one or more end user terminal devices.

54.   (New) The method of Claim 53, further comprising the steps of:
scaling said modified multimedia data set according to one or more significance values associated with each element of said modified multimedia data set; and encoding said modified multimedia set according to said terminal capabilities and communication connection capabilities.

55.   (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein said multimedia data set comprises one of, or a combination of two or more:
a still image;
one or more regions of interest of said still image;
a cropped portion of said still image;
a video object; and a segment of said video object.

56.   (New) The method of Claim 53 wherein said user preferences comprise:
a number of elements that constitute said multimedia data set,

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a significance value assigned to each element of said multimedia data set;

and

a cost associated with making said modified multimedia data set available to said one or more end user terminal devices.

57.   (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein said terminal capabilities include:

a level of resolution and an amount of processing power associated with each of said one or more end user terminal devices connected to said multimedia data set.

58.   (New) A multimedia system associated with a network, comprising:

one or more end user terminal devices connected to said network for simultaneously sharing and manipulating multimedia data and a multimedia application;

a server coupled with, and providing communication between, said one or more end user terminal devices and said multimedia data and said multimedia application;

one or more databases containing said multimedia data;

means for determining preferences of each of said one or more end user terminal devices; and

at least one transcoder coupled with said media server for automatically adapting said multimedia data to satisfy said determined preferences of each of said one or more end user terminal devices prior to sending said adapted multimedia to a receiving end user terminal device.

59.   (New) The multimedia system of Claim 58, further comprising means for transmitting commands defining each set of operations and manipulations in said shared multimedia data between end user terminal devices.

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60.   (New) The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein said determined preferences of said one or more end user terminal devices include user preferences, terminal capabilities; and network capabilities.

61   New) The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein said transcoder further comprises a scalability function for modifying said multimedia data.

62.   (New) The multimedia system of Claim 61, wherein said transcoder is capable of communicating with each of said end user terminal devices over a network connection

63   (New) The multimedia system of Claim 62, wherein said transcoder is associated with a server.

64.   (New) The multimedia system of Claim 62, wherein said transcoder is associated with a gateway device.

65.   (New) The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein said multimedia data comprises one of, or a combination of:
     a still image;
     one or more regions of interest of said still image;
     a cropped portion of said still image;
     a video object; and
     a segment of said video object.

66.   (New) The multimedia system of Claim 58, further comprising:
     a multimedia data set stored in said one or more data bases;
     a transcoder/scalability means for encoding, scaling and compressing said multimedia data set according to said user preferences, terminal capabilities; and network capabilities; and

a means for making said modified multimedia data set available to one or more end user terminal devices.

67.   (New) The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein said transcoder/scability service further comprises a transcoder for encoding,

68.   (New) The multimedia system of Claim 58, wherein said server further comprises a multipoint controller.